

Committee of the Regions

Activities of the CoR with the Western Balkans (joint consultative committees and working groups)

Directorate of Consultative Work – CIVEX commission –
Manolis Dardoufas, Administrator
LAF Study Tour – Brussels 14-16 May 2012

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Комитет на регионите
Comité de las Regiones
Výbor regionů
Regionsudvalget
Ausschuss der Regionen
Regioonide Komitee
Επιτροπή των Περιφερειών
Committee of the Regions
Comité des Régions
Coiste na Réigiún
Comitato delle regioni
Reģionu komiteja
Regionų komitetas
Régiók Bizottsága
Kumitat tar-Reġjuni
Comité van de Regio's
Komitet Regionów
Comité das Regiões
Comitetul Regiunilor
Výbor regiónov
Odbor regij
Alueiden komitea
Regionkommittén

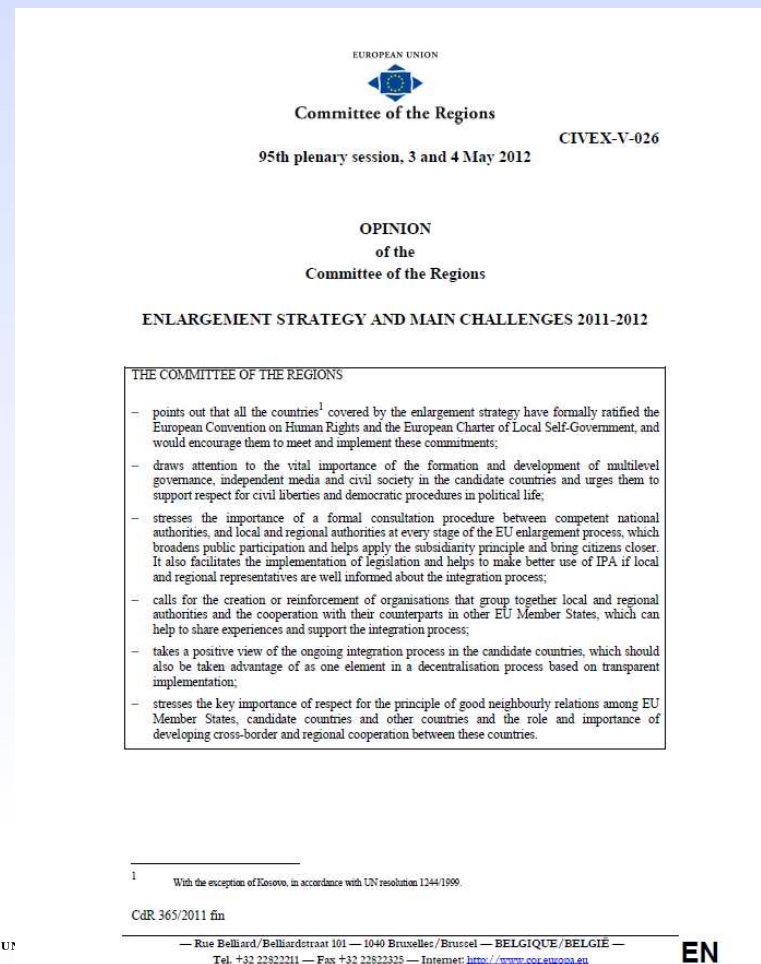
The CoR and the enlargement process



- Annual opinion on the enlargement strategy
- Joint Consultative Committees and Working Groups

2012 Opinion on the enlargement strategy - 1

- ❖ Base document: the EC communication on the enlargement strategy & main challenges for 2011-2012
- ❖ Rapporteur Stanisław Szwabski (EA/PL)
- ❖ Adopted in CoR plenary session on 3 May 2012



2012 Opinion on the enlargement strategy - 2

❖ All enlargement countries addressed

❖ Main points

- ❖ formation and development of multilevel governance culture in enlargement countries
- ❖ participation of local and regional authorities in the enlargement process at the national level
- ❖ crucial role of IPA funding
- ❖ support to ongoing process in the enlargement countries leading to European integration
- ❖ promotion of good neighbourly relations & cross border cooperation

❖ Specific points for WB countries

- ❖ focus on justice, corruption, decentralisation process, dialogue and cooperation

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JCC & WG - 1

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES - JCCS

- ❖ Joint Consultative Committees (JCCs) are created between the Committee of the Regions and the local and regional representatives of the candidate countries for EU accession.
- ❖ They are composed of an equal number of CoR members (and alternate members) and local and regional representatives from the partner country.
- ❖ JCCs are co-chaired by a CoR member and a member from the partner country, and decisions are taken jointly. Furthermore, the functioning of the JCCs is regulated by the "Rules of Procedures" adopted within each JCC.
- ❖ Given the stability of membership, possibility to draft reports and recommendations linking to the state of play of the enlargement process and the accession negotiations.
- ❖ Increased co-ownership, and ensuring a more proactive role for the representatives of the partner country.

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JCC & WG - 2

WORKING GROUPS - WG

- ❖ Working Groups (WGs) are composed only of members of the CoR, and do not have permanent members from the partner countries.
- ❖ The participation of local and regional representatives from the partner countries in meetings of the Working Groups varies according to the topics discussed and the place of the meeting.
- ❖ The Working Groups usually constitute a contact point with the LRAs of the partner countries and are used as a tool to deepen specific bilateral/multilateral issues.

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JCC & WG - 3

- ❖ JCC between the CoR and **Croatia** (wound up)
- ❖ JCC between the CoR and the **FYR Macedonia**
- ❖ JCC between the CoR and **Montenegro** (first meeting in September 2012)

- ❖ Working Group on relations with **Turkey**
- ❖ Working Group on the **Western Balkans** (AL, SRB, BiH, Kosovo*)

- ❖ JCC between the CoR and **Iceland** (discussions ongoing)
- ❖ JCC between the CoR and **Serbia** (possible in the future)

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Work of JCC with FYR Macedonia

17 October 2011, Brussels

- ❖ EU- the FYR Macedonia relations – recent developments and impact on sub-national authorities.
- ❖ Local and regional authorities and rural development

Next meeting: 7 June 2012, Štip

- ❖ E-government as a tool for providing the better services to the citizens

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JCC with Montenegro

- ❖ Based on a decision of the EU Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Council in June 2011
- ❖ 16 members (8 CoR and 8 MNE)
- ❖ First meeting planned in Cetinje (MNE) on 17 and 18 September 2012

WG on the Western Balkans - 1

- ❖ The Working Group on the Western Balkans focuses Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/1999) and Serbia
- ❖ **24 May 2011 in Kragujevac, Serbia**
 - ❖ Recent developments in EU-Serbia relations
 - ❖ The role of local and regional authorities in attracting EU funding.
- ❖ **13 December, Brussels**
 - ❖ The devolution of powers to sub-national level: an important factor for the strengthening of the capacity of local and regional authorities

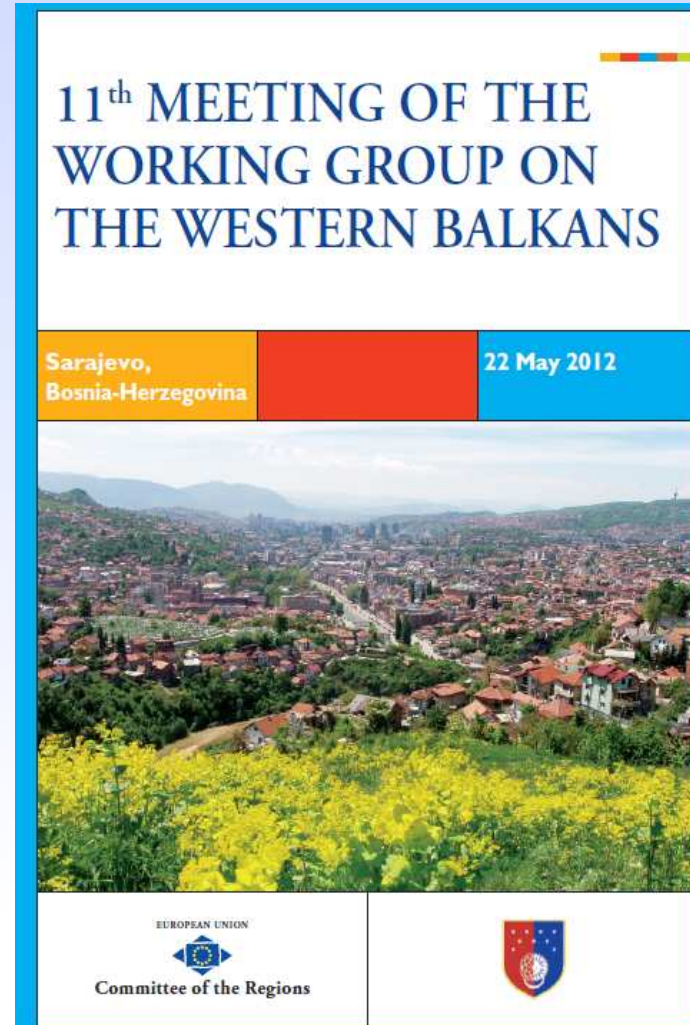
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WG on the Western Balkans - 2

- ❖ **Next meeting in Sarajevo
22 May 2012, focus on:**
 - ❖ the role of the sub-national authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina
 - ❖ the preservation of cultural heritage
- ❖ **High level political and administrative participations**
 - ❖ CoR president Mrs Bresso, DG ELARG Mr Sannino, Head of EU delegation in BiH, representatives BiH, Republika Srpska, Bosnia & Herzegovina Federation and Brčko district at the local level



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Thank you for your attention!

For more information:

victor.tilea@cor.europa.eu

(Western Balkans – BiH, Albania,
Serbia, Kosovo*)

petr.votoupal@cor.europa.eu

(FYR Macedonia)

emmanouil.dardoufas@cor.europa.eu

(Montenegro)

civex@cor.europa.eu



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